

01310

1990/11/29

76C

PEN American Center

RELEASED

508 Broadway, New York, New York 10012
 (212) 334-1880/Cables: Ashterpen New York/Fax: (212) 334-2181

President
 Larry McCleary

Vice President
 Robert Coen
 Bernadine Kussey
 Susan Borsig
 Robert Stine
 Marsha D. De

Secretary
 Betty Fussell

Treasurer
 Lionel Tiger

Executive Board
 Dore Ashton
 Ron Aulert
 Evan Berman
 Bern Blackburn
 Naomi Bluhm
 Madge Bogin

Patriots Bookworks
 Joseph Brodsky
 Wesley Brown
 Marlene Casper
 Jerome Charyn
 Amy Clampet
 Joel Conner
 Joyce Carol Oates
 Barbara Diamondstein
 E. L. Doctorow
 Julie Fetter
 Frances Fitzgerald
 Barbara Friedman
 Charles Fiterman
 Paula Gliddings
 Allan Gruenberg
 Peter Hargrave
 Barbara Goldsmith
 Mary Gordon
 Marilyn Hacker
 Robert Hass
 Nat Hentoff
 Eve Hoffman
 Anne Hollander
 Matthew Howard
 David Henry Hwang
 John Irving
 Susan Jacoby
 Lucy Kostner
 Eric Krasl
 Steven Krasl
 Martha Weinman Lear
 Penelope Lively
 Eileen Lomax
 Robert P. Luce
 Dennis MacLeod
 Mary MacLeod
 Norman Mailer
 Penelope McCormick
 Louise Merleau-Ponty
 Arthur Miller
 Mary Morris
 Victor Navasky
 Stanley Oshana
 Grace Paley
 Raymond Patterson
 Kathrin Pechl
 Charles Rembar
 Carol Reiter
 Edward Said
 Paul Salter
 Kirkpatrick Sale
 Jonathan Scheff
 Harvey Shapiro
 Susan Sontag
 Alice Walker
 Peter Bergman
 William Styron
 Guy Swoopes
 Martin Tamm
 Robert Zaretsky
 Kurt Vonnegut
 Edmund White
 Leon Wieseltier
 Maria Wallfisch
 Daniel Weissman

FAX SENT

November 29, 1990

United States Department of State
 Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
 Review Authority: TECHREP IVAN
 Date: 07-22-94
 Case ID: 930152

The Honorable James A. Baker III
 Secretary of State
 Department of State
 Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary of State Baker:

On behalf of the more than 2,500 writers who are members of PEN American Center, we write to voice our dismay about reports of your upcoming talks with China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. Recent articles in the *New York Times* suggest your government has invited the Chinese official to discuss American policy in the Persian Gulf -- more specifically to elicit Chinese support for a United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq in exchange for improved relations between the two countries. We fear that this normalization of ties would entail the lifting of U.S. sanctions against China and a curtailing of U.S. criticism of the human rights abuses committed by the Chinese government.

In light of reports detailing the Chinese government's continued crackdown on dissidents and its harsh treatment of those involved in last year's pro-democracy movement, overtures by your government to China seem particularly troubling. We are enclosing an appeal sent today by PEN to Prime Minister Li Peng on behalf of journalists Chen Zimeng and Wang Juntao who were charged last week with "plotting to overthrow the government" and "spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda" based upon their active involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations. According to our information, these charges could carry the death sentence. It appears that Mr. Chen and Mr. Juntao are being punished for exercising their internationally recognized right to free expression.

We ask that you intervene on the two journalists' behalf in your upcoming meeting with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. We, furthermore, request that you impress upon the Chinese government that any normalization of the official and economic ties between the United States and China must be preceded by an improvement in the Chinese government's questionable human rights record. Otherwise, it would appear that in its eagerness to pursue its Gulf policy, the U.S. administration is all too willing to sacrifice legitimate human rights concerns.

OPEN AMERICAN CENTER

NOV-29-'90 THU 18:40, ID:OPEN AMERICAN CENTER TEL NO:212-334-2181

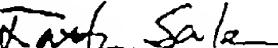
1054 P83

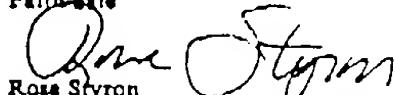
-2-

We hope you give this matter serious consideration and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,


Larry McMurtry
President


Faith Sale


Rose Styron
Co-Chair, Freedom-to-Write Committee